

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the Final Office Action of December 23, 2004, are earnestly solicited.

Accompanying this response is a request for a one-month extension of time in which to respond.

Claims 4, 18 and 19 have been amended to clarify Applicants' invention and Claims 1—3, 5, 9—11 and 15—17 have been canceled, leaving Claims 4, 6—8, 12—14, 18 and 19 pending in the application.

Claims 2—4, 6, 12—14, 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Barnes et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,970,475). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

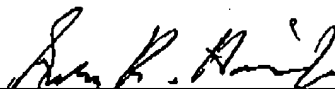
A careful review of Barnes et al. reveals no disclosure or suggestion of collecting information on the purchases made by participating entities via the computer based marketing center system and on quotes received from suppliers and analyzing the collected information to determine if any of the quotes were at prices more favorable than a previously negotiated price (amended Claim 18), nor a disclosure or suggestion of a computer based market center being operative to analyze transactions to determine if any involve purchases at prices more advantageous than supplier prices for the goods or services stored in the system's database (amended Claim 19). Therefore, Claim 18, and its dependent Claim 4, 6—18 and 12—14, and independent Claim 19 as believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 4, 18 and 19 as amended herein, and Claims 6—8 and 13—14 as

previously presented, are believed to be in condition for allowance, early acknowledgment of which is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 31, 2005

By: 
Gordon K. Harris, Jr., Reg. No. 28,615
(248) 944-6524

Attorney for Applicants

Ralph E. Smith
CIMS 483-02-19
DaimlerChrysler Intellectual Capital Corporation
DaimlerChrysler Technology Center
800 Chrysler Drive
Auburn Hills, MI 48326-2757
248-944-6519